

News Release



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Taylor Yard Public Meeting Set by State Parks and City of Los Angeles

Public Asked to Join Partnership for New Park

LOS ANGELES – California State Parks and the City of Los Angeles are asking community members to join the planning process for the first public meeting on Taylor Yard since the announcement last month of a unique partnership between the two in the planning and development of the new park site.

“This meeting marks the start of a new direction and a new vision for this park,” said State Parks Director Ruth Coleman. “The people of the surrounding neighborhoods have made it clear how important this site is to them. We are now eager to get their input and proceed with this new City-State partnership.”

“This development at Taylor Yard,” said Los Angeles Mayor Jim Hahn, “has been a long awaited, hard-fought, and collaborative effort. I encourage everyone to participate in these meetings – the members of the community play an integral role in shaping the future of this project.”

The public meeting is set for Wednesday, September 17, 2003, from 6:30-9:00 p.m., at Cypress Park Recreation Center at 2630 Pepper Avenue, Los Angeles, California. The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible.

On August 15, the City of Los Angeles and California State Park, along with state and local elected officials, unveiled the framework for a unique partnership agreement for the cooperative planning and development of a State Park at Taylor Yard. In the agreement, the State will lease approximately half of the 40-acre site to the City for 25 years, but the State and the City will plan, fund, and operate the entire park in a joint and cooperative manner to insure a seamless landscape and operation.

The upcoming September 15 meeting will include an update on the status of the City/State agreement, discussions on the process from various elected representatives, an

explanation of the planning meetings and process, and workshop sessions to seek input on concepts and designs. This is the first of two planning meetings to discuss the design concepts for the new park.

“People should come to this meeting prepared to roll up their sleeves and get to work,” said Ted Jackson, Southern Division Chief for California State Parks. “This site is a brown-field today, but it has great potential. It can become a natural, greenbelt area next the Los Angeles River and a recreational area for the surrounding neighborhoods. We think that will significantly enhance the natural beauty and the quality of life in these neighborhoods.”

Under the joint planning agreement by State Parks and the City, about one-half of the new park, or about 20 acres, would be the City’s leased land, dedicated to sports activities including recreational fields for soccer and baseball. The other half of the park, the State’s portion, would be devoted to nature trails, picnic areas, and wildlife habitat, possibly including riparian areas, bioswales and constructed wetlands.

"The City of Los Angeles, Department of Recreation and Parks is pleased to have partnered with State Parks to bring to the community a new park that will serve the diverse needs of the community,” said Manuel A. Mollinedo, General Manager of the Department. “Our goal is to provide a park full of active recreation, native California horticulture and demonstrate environmental stewardship.”

The agreement also states that the park will be designed as a single, seamless unit where all activities and areas would be blended; that the financing, construction and operations would be a combined effort by the City and State; and, that efforts would be made to maximize economies of scale and minimize duplication of effort and expenditures.

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